

**BEARDEN FAMILY PAPERS**  
**1876-1962**

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## INTRODUCTION

The Bearden Family Papers (1876-1962) are centered around Matt M. Bearden (1847-1906), businessman, and his son, Ellis Miller Bearden (1890-?), Episcopalian minister, of Lincoln County, Tennessee. The Bearden Family Papers are a gift of Miss Isabell Howell, Sewanee, Tennessee. The papers occupy .84 linear feet of shelf space and numbers approximately 70 items.

Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Bearden Family Papers may be made for the purpose of scholarly research.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

- 1890    June 12, born in Fayetteville, Lincoln County, Tennessee, the son of Matt and Susan (Woods) Bearden
  
- \_\_\_\_\_    Educated in the public schools of Fayetteville and at McFerrin School in Martin, Tennessee
  
- \_\_\_\_\_    Attended Middle Tennessee State University
  
- \_\_\_\_\_    Taught at Erin, Tennessee
  
- \_\_\_\_\_    Returned to the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee
  
- 1915    Awarded B. A. degree by University of the South
  
- 1916    Awarded M. A. degree in theology, University of the South
  
- 1918    Civilian Chaplain, First World War, Camp Sheridan, Montgomery, Alabama
  
- 1919    Awarded Bachelor of Divinity degree by University of the South; Chaplain of Sewanee Military Academy
  
- 1925    Instructor, Storm King School, Cornwell-on-the-Hudson, New York
  
- 1928    Instructor, Stuyvesant School, Warrenton, Virginia
  
- 1930    Instructor of Latin and Chaplain, Sewanee Military Academy
  
- 1950    Locum Tenens, St. Matthews Church, Covington, Tennessee

1951 Rector, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Cleveland, Tennessee

1952 Retired to Sewanee and served as Verger at All Saints Chapel

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The Bearden Family Papers, containing approximately 70 items, span the period 1772-1963, although it is concentrated in the years just prior to and during the First World War. The collection is composed of associations, institutions, etc., a certificate of membership, correspondence, genealogical data, a scrapbook, and several miscellaneous items. The collection is centered around Matt M. Bearden (1847-1906) and his wife Susan Woods Bearden (1853-1934) of Lincoln County, Tennessee, where Mr. Bearden operated a mill. Genealogical data may be found on the Bearden-Woods families, and to some extent the Dismukes and Kavanaugh families.

The correspondence of Ellis M. Bearden (1890- ), son of Matt and Susan Bearden, gives a flavor of the First World War effort at Camp Sheridan, Montgomery, Alabama, as Ellis Bearden hoped for active duty as a chaplain.

The collection also contains miscellaneous materials composed of printed materials from the Cunard Line in which Ellis Bearden appears as a passenger in 1930; a typescript copy of an agreement between the Cherokee Nation and the English government; a clipping of an eyewitness account of the hanging of Sam Davis; and plats, church records, and a thesis concerning Gruetti, Grundy County, Tennessee, settled by German-Swiss in 1869.

The Bearden Family Papers provide information to scholars on early twentieth century life in middle Tennessee.



## **CONTAINER LIST**

### **Box 1**

1. Associations, institutions, etc.--D.A.R., James Lewis Chapter--Yearbook, 1962-63
2. Certificate--Membership--D.A.R.--Mrs. Susan Woods Bearden, 1914
3. Cherokee nation--"Articles of Friendship and Commerce...", September 7, 1730 [copy]
4. Clipping--"Chattanooga Recalls Hanging of Sam Davis 80 Years Ago," 1918
5. Correspondence--Bearden, Ellis
6. Genealogical data--Bearden - Woods - Dismukes - Kavanaugh families
7. Grundy County, Tenn.--Gruetti Community, 1869, 1967
8. Grundy County, Tenn.--Gruetti Community Church, n.d.
9. Grundy County, Tenn.--"Gruetti Community, a thesis...", 1936

### **Box 2**

1. Printed materials--"Cunard Line," 1930
2. Scrapbooks--[Bearden, Susan Woods], ca. 1876-1910